



BLM News

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EIS Process to Start on Lincoln County Water ROWs

Reno, Nev.--The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is soliciting public comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in individual environmental impact statements (EIS) for two proposed groundwater development projects in Lincoln County. The Lincoln County Water District is proposing the Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project in Kane Springs Valley and the Lincoln County Land Act Utility Rights-of-Way Development Project in Clover Valley and Tule Valley.

Open-house meetings to provide information on both project EISs and to obtain public input on the scope of the issues to be addressed will be held in April. A Federal Register notice of intent to prepare an EIS and initiate a 30-day scoping period is expected to be published March 31. Scoping comments will be accepted throughout the scoping period, which ends May 1, 2006.

Caliente: Mon., April 10, 7-9 p.m. Caliente City Hall, 100 Depot Rd.

Alamo: Tue., April 11, 7-9 p.m. Alamo Ambulance Barn, 10 Airport Rd.

Mesquite: Wed., April 12, 7-9 p.m. Mesquite City Hall, 10 E. Mesquite Blvd.

Las Vegas: Thurs., April 13, 7-9 p.m. BLM Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 Torrey Pines Drive

Reno: Mon., April 17, 7-9 p.m. Airport Plaza Hotel, 1981 Terminal Way

The Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project EIS will assess the potential impacts associated with granting a right-of-way for construction, operation and maintenance of groundwater wells, pipelines, electric lines, access roads and terminal water storage, as well as impacts on water resources, wildlife, vegetation and other potentially affected resources.

Kane Springs Valley water production facilities would consist of up to seven production water wells located along the utility corridor established by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2004 (Public Act 108-424). A proposed test/production

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well site would be located in a “borrow-pit” site along the southeast side of Kane Springs Road approximately 10 miles north of the northernmost production well. Collectively, the wells would pump up to 5,000 acre feet of groundwater per year.

Groundwater water transmission pipelines would be located in a 20-foot wide permanent easement along the southeastern edge of the Kane Springs Road with lateral pipelines to each well-head/pump house.

Associated ancillary facilities would include distribution power lines and communication lines to be placed in the easement to provide power and communication for the project facilities. Access roads would be needed from the Kane Springs Road for vehicle access to each well site.

The Lincoln County Land Act (LCLA) Utility Rights-of-Way Development Project EIS will evaluate the potential impacts associated with granting a right-of-way for construction, operation and maintenance of groundwater wells, pipelines, electric lines, natural gas pipelines, access roads and terminal water storage, as well as impacts on water resources, wildlife, vegetation, and other potentially affected resources.

The LCLA Utility Right of Way Development Project would include up to eight production water wells in the previously permitted Toquop Energy Project proposed wellfield area in the Tule Desert hydrographic basin and up to 10 production water wells in the Clover Valley hydrographic basin. Collectively, these wells would pump nearly 24,000 acre feet of groundwater per year. A system of pipelines would collect pumped water for conveyance through a main transmission pipeline southeast to the LCLA development area.

Associated ancillary facilities would include distribution/transmission power lines and communication lines to be placed in the easement to provide power and communication for the project facilities. A wastewater return pipeline would also be constructed to enable use of reclaimed water produced within the LCLA development area by the already permitted Toquop Energy power plant. In addition, a natural gas pipeline would parallel the water pipeline from the existing Kern River Natural Gas pipeline south to the LCLA area.

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Rights-of-way for projects within utility corridors established by the Act would be granted in perpetuity. Right-of-way for all other features of these projects would be 30 years. The projects would operate year round.

Further information is available by calling Penny Woods at the BLM Nevada State Office at 775-861-6466, or on the Internet at www.nv.blm.gov.